



**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**  
**and**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**Corporate Assets and Strategic Planning Division**

<b>TO:</b> Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> City Wide
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> September 18, 2013	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Tactical Urbanism Hamilton Partnership (CM13015/PW13068) (City Wide)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Chris Murray City Manager Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Paul Johnson (905) 546-2424, Extension 5598  Geoff Lupton (905) 546-2424, Extension 7372
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That the City of Hamilton contribute \$15,000 to assist Tactical Urbanism Hamilton with the development of outreach, engagement and communication resources;
- (b) That staff be directed to develop an agreement, prior to the release of funds, between the City and the Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects to establish a collaborative partnership in support of Tactical Urbanism Hamilton, such agreement to be brought back to the General Issues Committee for approval.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Recent activities by the Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects (HBSA) have raised interest in Tactical Urbanism. As described in a recent report of the HBSA, Tactical Urbanism utilizes direct, low-risk, and low-cost action to inform and help cities and citizens catalyze long-term social and physical change. As a resident led approach to change, Tactical Urbanism is about short-term action that moves the community towards long-term change. The actions taken are usually small-scale interventions and may include Open Streets, Street Fairs, Pop-up Cafes, Guerrilla Gardening and Intersection Repair. More information about Tactical Urbanism is provided in Appendix A.

In April 2013, the HBSA held a workshop led by Mike Lydon of the Street Plans Collaborative in New York on Tactical Urbanism. The results of that workshop are attached as Appendix B.

Following the workshop, residents implemented two projects including installing “bump-outs” at Locke Street and Herkimer Street and painting a cross-walk across Cannon Street at Mary Street. These projects were undertaken without the knowledge or the permission of the City of Hamilton. While there are safety and liability concerns associated with these types of unofficial activities, many of the broader objectives of Tactical Urbanism are shared by the City of Hamilton. As highlighted, the actions taken as part of this and other tactical urbanism interventions are often characterized by their community focus. Building healthier neighbourhoods, improving safety and engaging the public in developing solutions to community concerns are all goals supported by the Vision and Strategic Plan of the City of Hamilton.

Since May 2013, the City of Hamilton has been exploring partnership opportunities with Tactical Urbanism Hamilton. To date, some pilot initiatives have been completed by the Public Works Department in consultation with representatives of Tactical Urbanism Hamilton. Examples include the recent installation of “ladder crossings” at several intersections across the City and a City installed set of bump-outs, and ladder cross walks at Locke and Herkimer Streets (as part of a year long pilot at that location).

In order to further develop this partnership, this report recommends providing a seed funding contribution for Tactical Urbanism Hamilton to develop an outreach, engagement and communication strategy that will allow broader public participation in identifying potential projects.

**Alternatives for Consideration - See page 5**

## **FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial:**

Funding for this project would come from a combination of funds from Ward Area Capital Reserves and the Neighbourhood Development Fund. At this time, funding

commitments are in place from Ward 1 and 2 (\$2,000 each) through Ward Area Capital Reserves leaving \$11,000 funded through the Neighbourhood Development Fund.

It is important to note that the City of Hamilton's funding will leverage additional funds from the HBSA and the Hamilton Community Foundation.

**Staffing:**

None

**Legal:**

A funding agreement will be developed with the assistance of the Legal Department prior to the release of any funds from the City of Hamilton. Funds will be directed to the Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects who have been a key supporter of the Tactical Urbanism work in Hamilton.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Elements of Tactical Urbanism have existed in Hamilton for some time. Open Streets events and the food truck movement in Hamilton are, in fact, examples of Tactical Urbanism. In the Spring of 2013, the Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects hosted a workshop that increased the interest in Tactical Urbanism. That workshop in April, 2013 was led by Mike Lydon of the Street Plans Collaborative in New York. See Appendix B for results of that workshop.

Following the workshop residents implemented two projects including installing "bumpouts" at Locke Street and Herkimer Street and painting a cross-walk across Cannon Street at Mary Street. These projects were undertaken without the knowledge or the permission of the City of Hamilton.

Council members were provided with a response from Public Works to those actions indicating concern with issues such as safety and liability of unsanctioned activities such as these.

Following that initial response, staff from the Public Works Department, Councillor McHattie and representatives from Tactical Urbanism Hamilton agreed to meet and discuss how the City of Hamilton could work with residents on issues of shared concern in neighbourhoods. Several meetings were held beginning in May 2013 and continuing through the summer. Agreement was reached on a number of pilot initiatives that would demonstrate a new level of partnership amongst the groups. The first was the work of the City of Hamilton to install bump-outs, and enhanced crosswalk markings at the Locke and Herkimer Streets location initially targeted by Tactical Urbanism Hamilton. Additional projects were undertaken such as the installation of ladder crossings at several intersections in the City.

During the conversations with Tactical Urbanism Hamilton, it was suggested that connections be made with the neighbourhood planning teams that are part of the City's neighbourhood development strategy. Many of the Neighbourhood Action Plans already endorsed by Council include actions focused on short-term improvements to

neighbourhood streets and open spaces. Through the Neighbourhood Development Office, Tactical Urbanism Hamilton was connected with the Community Development Workers who work at the neighbourhood level. It was also agreed that staff from the Neighbourhood Development Office should attend future meetings regarding Tactical Urbanism.

During the most recent meetings with Tactical Urbanism Hamilton, it was identified that a plan for outreach, engagement and communication was necessary if a broader array of ideas from residents was to be brought forward for consideration. The need for a website that could identify potential areas for action, as well as publicize the projects already underway or completed, was also identified.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

N/A

#### **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

This report is the result of a series of meetings with representatives from Tactical Urbanism Hamilton and staff from the Public Works Department and the Neighbourhood Development Office.

Ward 1 Councillor Brian McHattie was also included in several of the meetings and provided advice on how Tactical Urbanism Hamilton and the City might work together.

Through the Neighbourhood Development Office contact was made with each of the Community Development Workers who support the neighbourhoods engaged in the City's Neighbourhood Development Strategy.

#### **ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Through a number of conversations with Tactical Urbanism Hamilton, it has become clear that there are many ways the City of Hamilton can work with residents through this approach to neighbourhood improvement. The broad objectives of creating more liveable neighbourhoods is a shared aspiration and while the City may not be able to support every approach used by Tactical Urbanism Hamilton, it is clear there are many projects that are mutually beneficial.

Supporting Tactical Urbanism Hamilton to strengthen their outreach, engagement and communication abilities is a natural next step in this partnership. For the City to continue to support projects, there needs to be a mechanism for many more residents to suggest projects and a process to determine how to prioritise the responses. It is also important to celebrate the work underway and publicize where we are making progress.

Funding Tactical Urbanism Hamilton at this time will provide the resources necessary to support their expanding outreach to neighbourhoods across the City. Supporting the

development of communication tools such as a website (external to the City) will also help residents to track the progress being made and identify future projects. The City's own website is not an appropriate vehicle for this type of communication as not always will the City of Hamilton be partners with the projects identified. As with the City's own Neighbourhood Development Strategy, it is expected that some projects will be implemented by residents themselves or through partnerships with non-profit or for-profit partners. As such, the communication of the progress of this initiative should be shared amongst a number of partners. The development of an externally hosted website will assist in this regard.

It is becoming evident that Tactical Urbanism may be a tool that can assist in the implementation of the City's Neighbourhood Development Strategy. As part of the consultation, the Community Development Workers in neighbourhoods were asked whether there was merit in connecting Tactical Urbanism Hamilton with the neighbourhood planning teams. They believe there is merit for a couple of reasons. First, connecting Tactical Urbanism Hamilton to the existing Neighbourhood Planning Teams develops links within neighbourhoods and an opportunity for residents and those involved with Tactical Urbanism to learn from one another. Secondly, Tactical Urbanism Hamilton may be able to provide grassroots ideas that can assist in the implementation of the actions identified in the Neighbourhood Action Plans. Many of the actions relate to traffic safety, improvement of open space and building better relationships at the neighbourhood level. Some of the Tactical Urbanism approaches lend themselves well to supporting those actions.

This emerging partnership also advances the City of Hamilton's efforts to engage in new ways with residents and other key stakeholders. The fact that the City of Hamilton is willing to work with Tactical Urbanism Hamilton indicates a willingness to listen to new ideas and respond quickly where possible. Piloting new and innovative ideas is at the heart of the City of Hamilton's Vision, Mission and Values and this partnership provides a new avenue to test new ways of doing our work.

#### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Alternative: Provide a reduced level of funding for this project.

Under this alternative, the City could approve a smaller level of funding for this project. In conversations with Tactical Urbanism Hamilton reducing the level of funding from the City would delay the development of communication tools such as a website and slow the engagement and outreach to the community.

#### **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN**

##### **Strategic Priority #1**

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

*WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.*

**Strategic Objective**

- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

**Strategic Action**

- (i) *Complete the development of Neighbourhood Action Plans in selected priority neighbourhoods and complete a funding strategy to guide how the City of Hamilton will support the implementation of Neighbourhood Action Plans.*

**APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**

Appendix A Tactical Urbanism 2

Appendix B Tactical Urbanism: A Summary Report for the Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects